



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Niagara Falls

Niagara Falls is one of the world's most famous waterfalls. It forms part of the border between the United States and Canada. Water in the thirty-five-mile-long Niagara River flows east from Lake Erie. It goes over Niagara Falls. Then it goes into Lake Ontario.

Actually, Niagara Falls is two sets of falls. Goat Island lies between them. American Falls is about 1,060 feet long and 170 feet high. Horseshoe Falls is about 2,600 feet long and 176 feet high. Horseshoe Falls is named for its shape. It carries about nine times more water than American Falls. The thunder of the falling water can be heard more than twenty miles away. When the sun shines on the ever-present mist rising from the water, a rainbow glitters in the air.

Niagara Falls is a popular destination for tourists and honeymooners. Over the years, it has drawn plenty of daredevils, too. An American teacher was the first person to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel. In 1901, Annie Taylor was sealed into a barrel and dropped into the Niagara River. She was swept over Horseshoe Falls. When the barrel was retrieved near the base of Niagara Falls, she was alive but battered and bloody. Others who have tried the same stunt have been badly injured or killed. Often, a daredevil's vessel smashes on the rocks at the bottom. Now anyone who tries such a feat is arrested.

### Check Your Understanding

- Which of the following is an opinion and *not* a fact?
  - second paragraph, first sentence
  - second paragraph, last sentence
  - first paragraph, last sentence
  - none of the above
- What is the author's attitude toward anyone going over Niagara Falls in a barrel?
  - admiration
  - humor
  - disapproval
  - encouragement
- Which of these titles would best express the main idea of the passage?
  - "American Falls"
  - "Be Careful!"
  - "Two Sets of Falls"
  - "Daredevils Are Dangerous"
- From the context of the passage, which elements are necessary to create rainbows?
  - fine droplets of water in the air
  - sunlight
  - snow
  - both a and b





Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## Krakatoa

One of the most powerful volcanic explosions in human history occurred in 1883. It happened on the island of Krakatoa near Java. This is in Indonesia. On August 27, after half a million years of inactivity, Krakatoa awoke with a roar. Three volcanic mountains on the uninhabited island exploded. The massive blast sent a cloud of ash, dust, steam, and volcanic debris fifty miles high into the atmosphere.

More explosions and violent earthquakes occurred. The explosive force created winds that circled the globe seven times. But the worst was yet to come. The explosion caused giant waves called **tsunamis**. They roared across the water and blasted the shores of nearby islands. Just one of these waves killed 10,000 people on a neighboring island thirty

miles away. At least 36,000 people were killed altogether.

Ships that were far from shore were safe from these waves. But near the coast, the waves picked up boats and threw them onto the land. Waves from the volcanic eruption and earthquake were felt as far away as the English Channel. Tsunamis were recorded in South America, too.

A tremendous noise occurred when three-quarters of the island collapsed into the sea. (It was an island about the size of New York's Manhattan Island.) The sound was so loud that people heard it 3,000 miles away. The people in Texas who heard the explosion thought it was gunfire. They were shocked to learn that it came from half a world away.

### Check Your Understanding

- Which event occurred second in the sequence of events at Krakatoa?
  - Three-quarters of the island collapsed into the sea.
  - Tsunamis hit neighboring islands.
  - Three volcanic mountains exploded on Krakatoa.
  - A cloud of debris blasted into the atmosphere.
- Which of the following is a topic sentence?
 

a. paragraph one, first sentence	c. paragraph one, last sentence
b. paragraph two, last sentence	d. paragraph three, last sentence
- From the context of the passage, what are **tsunamis**?
 

a. giant earthquakes	c. giant waves of sound
b. giant ocean waves	d. giant waves of lava
- Which of these is the best summary of the entire passage?
  - An earthquake occurred on Krakatoa, putting many lives and homes at risk.
  - A violent volcanic eruption combined with earthquakes destroyed the island of Krakatoa and caused enormous damage.
  - Waves of sound could be heard thousands of miles away.
  - Tsunamis are giant waves that cause a lot of damage.

